

# WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



## SLOVENIA IN AUTUMN

### MISTY LAKES & MEDIEVAL VILLAGES

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Historical churches on lakes and hilltops
- Detail-rich old buildings and villages
- Extraordinary autumn colours in alpine forests
- Lake reflections and waterfalls
- Carved limestone gorges
- Turquoise rivers
- Precipitous alpine peaks
- A visit to Slovenia's best-preserved medieval town
- Superb food and hospitality
- Outstanding locations close to our base
- The scenic Julian Alps

#### INTRODUCTION

We are thrilled to introduce our new and classic photographic itinerary in the scenic Julian Alps. This eight day holiday will be based around a love of photography and good food. We stay in just one scenically and beautifully located base with excellent, relaxing facilities. Your hosts Charlotte and Niall have years of experience in creating a convivial atmosphere for guests who wish to enjoy some delicious food, alongside the opportunity to learn and develop their photography.

Slovenia is a friendly, prosperous member of the EU, a country in Central Europe known for its mountains, ski resorts and lakes. The area retains a feeling of the Alps as they used to be in times gone by. Based at Ribčev

Laz, in the heart of the Triglav National Park, our Slovenian house party combines rich photographic opportunities in accessible locations with delicious food and a convivial atmosphere. We don't forget that you are there for a holiday, as well as some superb photography.

Whilst popular with tourists in the summer months, we have most of the locations more or less to ourselves by the autumn when the colours are at their glowing best. The weather is often calm and warm at this time of year. Lake Bohinj just five minute's walk from our comfortable and scenic base. It is famous for its early morning mists making for some atmospheric and classic shots. The sun rises at around seven and dawn shoots are pleasurable rather than challenging. Freed from hotel timetables, we



plan mealtimes around our photography and often take breakfast out into the field to eat after a dawn shoot. During the sunny days, we can keep busy by photographing in the narrow streets of local villages including the famous Škofja Loka, Slovenia's best-preserved medieval town.

Most of our locations are within an hour's drive of our base, some just fifteen minutes away.

Travelling a bit further afield, we spend one day in the Soča Valley which borders Italy. Our journey here takes us over the spectacular Vršič Pass (1611m) to reach magically carved limestone gorges and turquoise water. Whether your interest is in the grand view or close-ups of autumn foliage and buildings, this tour has lots to photograph... and just as much to eat!

### Niall Benvie

Niall has extensive experience leading photographic tours and workshops and is a founding fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers. Niall

leads our workshops in Iceland, Scotland, Slovenia and France, [read more...](#)

### Charlotte Benvie

Charlotte spent most of her childhood living close to nature. She is a superb cook, chocolatier and photographer. She works with husband Niall on diverse enterprises centred round nature photography and chocolate. Charlotte works with Niall on our workshops in Iceland, Scotland, Slovenia and France, [read more...](#)

## DAILY ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrive at Ljubljana airport

There will be a single transfer from the airport. Niall and Charlotte will transfer guests to the base in Ribčev Laz just one hour away. En-route, we go through the village of Bled with the famous Church of the Assumption of Mary on an island. Shortly after settling in at our accommodation we enjoy dinner together followed by an inspiring image presentation.

### Day 2: Lake Bled

This morning we will photograph the fairy-tale Church on the island in the middle of Lake Bled at dawn. Although much photographed, there is plenty of scope for individual interpretation. Energetic members of the group may wish to walk for half an hour to a lovely wooded viewpoint overlooking the lake. Alternatively it is perfectly fine to photograph from a variety of viewpoints beside the lake. We will take breakfast by the lake this morning. Returning to base there will be time to download and check our morning's images. After lunch we will spend the remainder of the day exploring the alpine

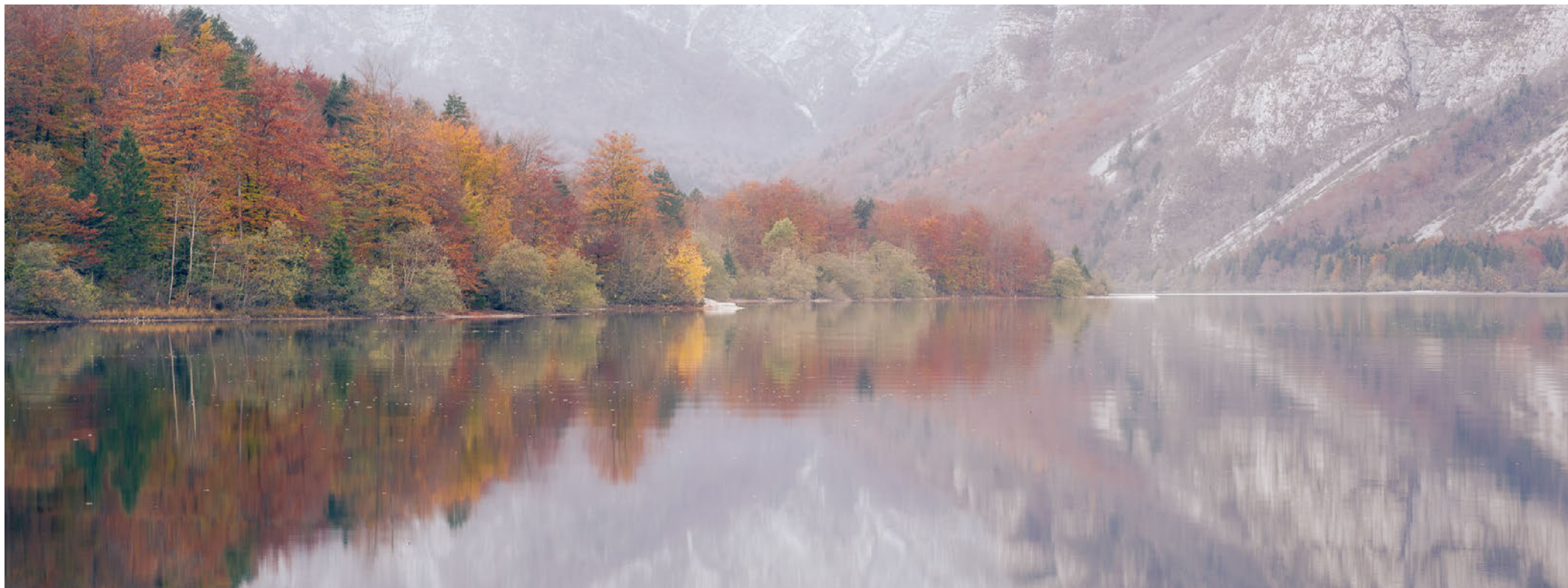
meadows, old farms and woodlands around Koprivnik around half an hour from our base.

### Day 3: Lake Bohinj

A very short drive sees us at the shore of Lake Bohinj. There are several viewpoints along the Lake, all with easy access. We will choose particular ones according to visibility: fog is a special feature of the lake making the surrounding beech woods especially magical. Surrounding hills make for impressive reflections in the lake. At the end of the lake is an attractive church of St John the Baptist. This offers a focal point beside the village and is just 10 minute's walk from our front door. Following a relaxed breakfast back at base, we take a picnic lunch to enjoy during our excursion to the Mostnica River and its attractive gorge. We start at the pretty village of Stara Fužina. A well-made path follows the river. Flowing over chalk-pale limestone, the river appears turquoise becoming more spectacular where it cuts deeply into the limestone creating fascinating and photogenic erosion fea-







tures. The round walk is a gentle four kilometres. Time permitting we will spend the rest of the daylight hours shooting in Stara Fužina.

#### **Day 4: St Primoz's, near Jamnik**

Another bright and early start this morning as we head off to photograph St Primoz's, near Jamnik. This is one of the most beautifully located churches in Slovenia. It will take just over an hour to get there. The road is beautifully scenic. The sunrise will rake along the slopes beneath the church at this time of year. This is a spectacular spot, with views down into delightful forest cloaked valleys. It is illegal to clear-cut woodland in Slovenia. Our breakfast in the field includes fresh berries, yoghurt, brioche rolls, apricot jam with coffee and tea. Following

breakfast we retrace our steps down to the historical iron smelting village of Kropa where there are many interesting buildings and details to shoot, including yet another gorgeous church in the forest. Arriving back at base in time for a late lunch we spend some time relaxing before heading out for the late afternoon light to Srednja Vas and Bohinjska Česnjica, a couple of villages in the nearby valley.

#### **Day 5: Sorica and Lake Bled**

Leaving early morning we drive up the village of Sorica to get a sunrise over the valleys. This journey takes about 45 minutes. After breakfast we descend the other side of the hill into a lovely beech wood with lots of mushrooms, returning home for lunch. After lunch there is the option

of a short break to catch up on rest, or a short Lightroom tutorial. The choice is yours. Of course there is always the possibility to keep on shooting: the lake isn't so far away. For dusk, we drive back to the popular and always scenic Lake Bled where we will photograph the church from the lakeside.

#### **Day 6: Soča Valley and River**

Following breakfast at our base we leave for the Soča Valley. The journey takes two hours but the photographic opportunities are well worth going the extra mile! Traversing the Vršič Pass we will see and photograph some incredible alpine scenery. One of our main focuses will be the beautifully carved limestone features and turquoise



waters of the Velika Korita section of the Soča River; this is visually stunning. The valley itself is of great historical significance, it formed the front line in desperate battles between the Italians and Austro-Hungarian forces during the First World War. We visit the Russian Chapel, erected to commemorate three hundred Russian prisoners of war killed in a landslide. In the case of early snow, we have another valley nearby with equally beautiful options.

#### **Day 7: Lake Bohinj and Škofja Loka**

We leave early for Lake Bohinj. This allows us to “mop up” opportunities we may have missed earlier in the week. After a home breakfast, we take a picnic lunch for our visit to Škofja Loka. It takes just over an hour to drive to the old quarters where we will spend the rest of the day exploring the streets and alleyways of this colourful and fascinating medieval town. We return to our base after spending the day entranced by this famous medieval village. During the evening we will enjoy a final and super dinner from Charlotte followed by a presentation of some of the weeks best images.

#### **Day 8: Transfer to Ljubljana airport**

Following a last delicious breakfast you will be free to pack and photograph locally until a late morning transfer for flights from Ljubljana.

#### **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- 7 nights accommodation en suite facilities
- All meals
- Airport transfers
- Tuition



#### **WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

- Flights (direct flights with Easy jet from Stansted)
- Alcohol, snacks between meals

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

Scenic and comfortable guest house solely for our group. En suite facilities with attractive communal and dining areas.

#### **FOOD**

Charlotte will be catering throughout using a wide array of fresh and local produce.

#### **SPENDING MONEY**

The Slovenian currency is euro. ATM machines are widely available.

#### **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

It is recommended that you take out appropriate insurance to cover personal accident, medical costs, death, repatriation and loss of baggage. We will need a copy of your travel insurance at the time of booking.

#### **PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS**

A passport valid for three months beyond the length of stay and issued within the past 10 years is required by citizens of the UK, Australia, Canada and USA. Citizens of EU countries need a passport or national ID card valid for the duration of stay.

Nationals of other countries might need a visa for Slovenia. Please check the [Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs website](https://www.slovenia.gov.si/en/foreign-affairs/) for visa requirements.



## LANGUAGE

The national Slovenian language is spoken natively by 91.1% of the population, only 4.5% are native speakers of Serbo-Croat, but it is widely understood. 4.4% (minority communities near the national borders) speak Italian and Hungarian. Spoken English is on the level of other European countries in the nearby region.

## CLIMATE

Temperatures: night occasional 0°C, during the day max 25°C. Possibility of rain/snow on high ground.

## CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS

The best solution to temperature control is to have a number of layers available from lightweight thermal underwear through mid-layer insulation to a windproof/waterproof jacket/trousers. If you have any questions feel free to contact us at anytime before the trip.

## SUGGESTED CLOTHING/EQUIPMENT

- Warm jumper or jacket
- Trousers that allow flexibility of movement
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Warm socks
- Boots/shoes with good tread
- Warm hat
- Neck warmer such as “Buff”
- gloves that enable using camera controls whilst wearing
- Casual clothes, jeans etc for guesthouse wear
- Indoor shoes/slippers
- Sun cream and sunglasses
- Head torch
- Small basic first aid & any personal medicines
- Wash kit

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION

- Camera bag or backpack such as the Flipside or Trekker series designed by LowePro.
- Any extra equipment that doesn't fit in your camera bag/hand luggage will need to go in a hard case that can be put in the aircraft hold.
- A camera with interchangeable lenses such as a digital SLR or a mirrorless system camera.
- A set of lenses to cover the whole range from wide-angle to telephoto, for example...  
For full-frame cameras: 16–35mm wide-angle, 24–105mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom. For crop format cameras: 10–20mm wide-angle, 17–50mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom.

- Spare camera (highly recommended)
- Sturdy tripod – not only useful for low light photography but also for accurate framing and composition of landscape and close-up images.
- Cable release – mechanical or electronic remote to avoid shake on long exposures.
- Although not essential camera filters such as neutral density, graduated filters and polarisers can be useful. At least one neutral density filter in the range of 4–6 stops would be a good addition to your kit.
- Lens cloth
- Sensor cleaning device (optional)
- Lightweight ‘trekking’ absorbent towel for drying cameras and equipment
- Rain cover for camera and camera bag
- Sufficient memory cards for the whole holiday as it may not be possible to buy more during the trip.





- Film users should bring enough film, as it may not be possible to buy in many places.
- A laptop with the image editing applications of your choice, essential for checking and presenting images during the trip and for one-on-one sessions with the tutor.
- Backup storage device (optional)
- Spare batteries and chargers
- All the electrical sockets are European two-pin, so you might need a travel plug adapter.

## MAPS AND BOOKS

[Lonely Planet Slovenia](#)

## PARTNERS

Although this is primarily a photography holiday, non-photographer partners will be very welcome as there are many options and interesting possibilities in addition to taking photographs.

## MORE QUESTIONS?

While we hope that this information has answered most of your questions about the holiday, we know it will not give you all the information you need. If you have any more questions, please get in touch. Talking to us on the phone (we will always call you back) can often be a quick way of sorting out individual questions. It also helps us to get to know each other before the holiday.

## BOOKING THIS HOLIDAY

Fill in the [online booking form](#), or give us a call on +44 (0)1630 647828.



## LINKS

[Soča Valley Travel Information](#)

[Lonely Planet's Slovenia pages](#)

View [images and information for this tour](#) on the website.

Read about [our approach to teaching photography](#)